

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**SECRET**

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## REPORT NO.

COUNTRY : Guatemala

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 25 June 1952

SUBJECT Tense Political Situation in Guatemala

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# BY CABLE

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The political situation has become increasingly tense since President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman proposed the Agrarian Reform bill on 10 May. Claiming steamroller tactics without adequate debate and majority failure to observe parliamentary procedure rules, the opposition deputies walked out prior to the final vote on the bill, which became law on 17 June 1952. Other factors indicative of, and adding to, general tenseness are:
  - a. Opposition to imminent passage of a "Communist, totalitarian law," which began on 6 June in several interior villages, resulting in approximately six deaths and some arrests;
  - b. Arrest of some anti-Communist students, who reportedly attempted to sabotage power lines;
  - c. Persecutions of students, as revealed by the press;
  - d. Formation of a new party called Party of the Guatemalan Revolution, made up of the Partido Accion Revolucionario (PAR), the Partido Renovacion Nacional, the Frente Popular Libertador (FPL), and the Socialists, with the express purpose of gaining central control of civilian efforts to defend the government;
  - e. Possible civil war hinted at in Guatemala press;
  - f. Propaganda attacks by Association of Farm Owners (AGA);
  - g. Organization of defense committees by the General Confederation of Labor to support the Army and the police in support of the government, as announced on 14 June by Carlos Manuel Pellecer;

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- h. Anti-Communist radio programs silenced by government pressure;
  - i. All firearms licenses revoked by government order;
  - j. Cars stopped and searched;
  - k. Distribution of handbills from vehicles prohibited by government order;
  - l. Government denial of rumors that it was arming farm laborers.
2. Market women distributed leaflets on 18 June calling for all business houses to be closed on 20 June to protest the detention of four students.
3. It is considered possible that dissident factions will revolt. To ward off any attempt against the government, the heads of military establishments in Guatemala City are being changed.

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